

"R.H./OFFICIAL" on a PERFIN
or a PERFIN on a "R.H./OFFICIAL"

John Marriner

An enigma, or I am being thick and have not got a clue. Please help!!

A perfectly ordinary KEVII 1d red, with a perfin of "B in oval" identified to the Bessbrook Spinning Co.Ltd., Bessbrook in the county of Newry and Mourne in the Southern part of Northern Ireland.

The double ring date-stamp has the remaining letters of "...ROOK" which I assume to be a Bessbrook cancel (date unknown). But, on the face of the stamp is the "R.H./OFFICIAL" overprint in black. On closer inspection the overprint appears to be forged with rough lettering and not as illustrated in Stanley Gibbons.



Whilst under a decent glass, I also discovered a further "overprint", in that in small letters in a weaker ink and printed vertically is the word "FAUX". (I assume the French for a load of old cobblers!)

Still under the glass, the perfin appears to be genuine in that it seems to have been produced before affixing to a suitable envelope. The assumed Bessbrook cancel is applied over the "R.H./OFFICIAL" overprint. When the "FAUX" was applied I cannot hazard a guess.

Now, why forge a Royal Household overprint on a perfined stamp? Or, vice versa, which seems to me to be worse. Then it is used, I further assume legally and receives a Northern Ireland post-mark. How did it receive a French mark to designate the R.H. overprint as false?

Just to throw another spanner in the works, the outline of the "B in oval" perfin on this stamp also has extra "holes" within the normal boundaries of this die, so is it "B in oval" or a "B" in another shape?

PERFINS ON STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

John Nelson

During the course of my survey of perfins on the 1924 and 1925 British Empire Exhibition commemorative stamps I have received considerable help from Alan Sabey who is well known in philatelic circles, is a member of the Exhibitions Study Group and co-author of *The Lion Roars at Wembley*

.
Among Alan's special interests are stamps connected with the Olympic Games and he is now seeking information in regard to perfins which are to be found on such stamps. This applies not only to the GB issues of 1948 (SG 495/498) but to all Olympic Games commemoratives which have been issued by countries throughout the world.

If you are able to assist, would you please write to Alan Sabey (OG), 46 Thorncliffe Road, Norwood Green, Southall, UB2 5RQ giving details of stamps, dies (photocopies would be appreciated) and identities where known.